

## AMERICAN LINER IS HELD UP AT SEA

YUAN SHI KAI  
NOT FEARING  
REBEL FORCE

President of Chinese Republic Not Uneasy Over Yun Nan Uprising.

## WORK HELPS APPETITE

Added Duties, Executive Says, Tend Only to Make Him Better Eater.

Peking, Feb. 19.—In an exclusive interview with the correspondent of the Associated Press at the palace today President Yuan Shi Kai minimized the importance of the rebellion now in progress and expressed confidence in the ability of the government troops to suppress the uprising when adequate troops reach the upper Yang Tze Kiang. Vice Admiral Tsai Ting Kan, confidential secretary of Yuan Shi Kai, acted as interpreter.

"This is no campaign, but only a skirmish," said Yuan Shi Kai; "but it gives me so much work that it increases my appetite."

The president replied laughingly to a remark regarding his excellent physical condition and good spirits, refuting rumors of his ill health. Discussing his enthronement, he said:

"Although a date in February was sanctioned, the enthronement could not take place because of the Yun Nan rebellion, which necessitated military operations. Therefore, it was decided, with saddened hearts, to postpone it."

The president said the drafting of a new constitution would be begun in a few days. When it is finished, the constitution will go before a national convention for suggestions. He did not predict the date of promulgation of the constitution. Discussing its nature, he said:

"We shall adopt from all countries the provisions best suited to China, without leaning toward any foreign constitution."

Yuan Shi Kai had this to say regarding probable recognition of the monarchy:

"I cannot tell what governments will or will not delay. Each will recognize the monarchy according to circumstances."

China Maintaining Neutrality.

Regarding China's position as affected by the war, the president said:

"China has made every effort to maintain strict neutrality. The Chinese government is not aware that the entente powers or the other belligerents have made any substantial charges against us for not having done so. China will endeavor to remain on friendly terms with all the treaty powers."

Yuan Shi Kai then reverted to the insurrection.

"Yun Nan and Kwei-Chow have few troops and little ammunition," he said. "How soon the rebellion will be crushed depends upon the roads and the rapidity of communication. You must remember that it was easy for the rebels to make a short dash into Sze-Chuen, whereas the government troops must make a difficult trip to reach the rebels. Well supplied troops will speedily suppress the rebels on reaching the scene."

"A few ambitious leaders, without popular support, are engineering the rebellion. The voting showed that the public favors a monarchy."

COPIES OF CRONES  
LETTERS ARRIVE

Facsimile of Notes Believed Written by Soup Poisoner Obtained by Police.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—Photographic copies of the first letter to a New York newspaper in which Jean Crone boasted of having poisoned soup at the Mundein banquet here last week, and a photograph of three men, one supposed to be Crone, were received from New York today by Captain Hunt of the Chicago detective department. Employees in the kitchen of the University club, where Crone was assistant chef, will be asked to identify his supposed photograph.

With the letter and picture came a post card, purporting to be written by Baldo Barnesio, brother-in-law of Antonio Cod, who was questioned recently as being a friend of Crone. The Chicago police were asked by New York officers to apprehend Barnesio.



HIS PACIFIC YOUNGSTER

FLOOD BECOMING  
GRAVE AFFAIR IN  
SOUTHERN STATE

New Orleans, La., Feb. 19.—Increased apprehension was felt today for the 2,000 or more persons marooned around Newellton, without food and with but scant shelter. Most of them are negro plantation laborers unable to reach safety when the Mississippi river broke through the levee at the Buck Ridge plantation. The crevasse is nearly 700 feet wide. The water is pouring through the crevasse four miles an hour. A quarter semi-circle with a radius of 25 miles is flooded from six to 15 feet deep, while beyond the another 25 miles is covered with water from a few inches to one and two feet deep.

The flood will not reach its climax for at least a week, authorities predict. Concordia parish in northeast Louisiana is almost entirely covered with water.

Flood waters from the Buck Ridge crevasse and backwater from the Black, Red and Old rivers together with water from the broken levees of the Arkansas river have dotted northeast Louisiana with several large lakes. It is believed they eventually will converge into one huge lake, 85 miles by 50 miles, covering the parishes of Tensas, Concordia, Franklin and Catahoula except in a few high spots.

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Slayers Dig  
Hole to Hide  
Marked Man

Chicago, Feb. 19.—A murder so carefully planned that even the grave was dug was revealed today in a confession by Mrs. Josephine Zdzowski, her husband, Teofil Zdzowski, and Alex Metelski, who, the police say, admit hitting Tony Sandrovich repeatedly on the head with an axe, at a farm six miles west of Benton Harbor, Mich.

Sandrovich, who was 55 years old, and was employed on the farm rented by Zdzowski, was believed by the trio to possess a considerable amount of money, the police say the confession states, but only \$35 was obtained.

Sandrovich was lured to the farm, according to the police. Hearing that he carried in his clothes considerable money, the police say Mrs. Zdzowski told them, they asked him to come to work on the farm, planning to kill him.

"On the night before the murder," the confession reads, according to police, "we sent to South Bend for a lot of whiskey. We drank all we wanted when Sandrovich came and he had a lot, too. When he fell asleep Metelski hit him twice on the head with an axe. He moved a little and my husband hit him with the axe. We already had the grave dug and we threw his body into it and left on the next train for Chicago."

Another man and his wife once worked on the farm, Mrs. Zdzowski is said to have told the police, and it was planned to kill them for their money, but she became frightened and prevented the crime.

Zdzowski and Metelski, unaware that Mrs. Zdzowski had confessed, still denied all knowledge of the murder, according to the police, but later also confessed.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—A bomb which was exploded today at the home of Modestino Mastrogiorganni in Grand Boulevard wrecked the front of the building but did not injure any of the occupants. Mastrogiorganni, a year ago was the proprietor of a private bank, the affairs of which are now before the bankruptcy court. He told of receiving threatening letters signed the "Black Hand" but said that he believed the explosion was the work of some depositor enraged over the loss of his money.

"Some individual angry over what happened to the bank is responsible," said Mastrogiorganni. "The man who signed the letter wanted money, thousands of dollars. The letters were signed 'black hand' but I do not think they came from any organization."

The explosion shattered the windows in several nearby houses.

The Mastrogiorganni home is in a fashionable district and there was much excitement in the neighborhood, many rushing to the street. The blast shook houses for blocks around and the police declared that from the force exerted that the bomb was apparently filled with nitro-glycerine.

Damages amounting to \$5,000 was done by the explosion.

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UNEARTH PLOT TO  
INCITE A REVOLT  
IN INDIA, IS CLAIM

Aberdeen, Wash., Feb. 19.—Details of the alleged plot to incite a revolution in India, in which the steamer Maverick and the schooner Annie Larsen are said to have figured, were made public here today by Dr. R. F. Hunter, United States surgeon of this port, who credited his information to British officials in this country. It was Dr. Hunter that aided in the discovery and seizure of contraband munitions of war on the Annie Larsen in Gray's Harbor last June.

According to Dr. Hunter's advice, two Hindus who were on the Maverick fell into the hands of the British and were taken to Shanghai where they were tried on charges of fomenting a rebellion. One, Sidmond Hay Abbas, was sentenced to 15 years in prison and the other, his son, Oswald, received a sentence of two years.

The Maverick was owned by Captain Fred Jebson, a German, who was indicted in San Francisco recently for alleged violation of American neutrality. The steamer, according to Dr. Hunter's information, worked in conjunction with the Annie Larsen in an attempt to transport war munitions from this country to India. Storms separated the two vessels, the Annie Larsen coming to Gray's Harbor and the Maverick finally landing in the Dutch West Indies, where she was interned.

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LAY FALL OF  
TURK CITY TO  
CLOSE UNITY

Complete Cooperation of the Russian Troops Made Any Defense Useless.

## FIRST DETAILED STORY

Petrograd Gives Good Account of Capture of the Turkish Stronghold.

Petrograd, Feb. 19. (via London, 11:52 a. m.)—The first story in detail of the capture of Erzerum by the Russians reached Petrograd semi-officially today. It shows complete cooperation of Russian troops over a wide area, which made useless resistance on the part of the Turks. Apparently the Turks realized the fall of Erzerum was inevitable and withdrew most of their forces before the final onslaught, leaving the garrisons of the widely separated forts to their fate.

The campaign began to reach its climax in the last days of January. The troops of General P. from the north of General K. from the east, moved against the first line under the most severe weather conditions. The Russians dragged their artillery to the heights surrounding the fortress and when all was ready began to bombard Fort Kara Gudek, 20 miles, and Fort Datan Gez, 15 miles northeast of Erzerum, preparatory to the bayonet assault.

January 29 both forts capitulated. Taking of Datan Gez made a breach in the outer line defense. The Boinu range in front of the city. The capture of Kara Gudek opened a passage through the Kara Bagas pass to the city proper from the northeast.

Fort Tafta lies midway between these two fortresses. In a night attack on Jan. 30 this fort was captured, leaving only Chaban Bebe between the two armies operating from this quarter.

Russians Effect Junction.

On Feb. 2, the Russians began to storm the whole front line on the Beve Boinu heights. By evening all these positions were in Russian hands, permitting complete junction of the troops on the northeast. The fall of this first line quickly decided the fate of the inner forts.

Meanwhile the Palan Teken group of forts, seven miles to the south, had been surrounded on three sides. The general assault on the second line began without giving the men time for a rest. The five inner forts made only a feeble resistance. Their garrisons beat a hasty retreat into the city and followed the bulk of the troops which already were on the roads leading westward.

Turks Evacuate Forts.

Only the rear guard took part in the fighting of the last day. Signs that the evacuation was under way were observed immediately after the fall of the first fort.

It is thought possible the Turks will attempt to make a stand at the first favorable point, which is in the hills on the western edge of Erzerum valley, 11 miles distant, but it is not regarded as probable that they have been able to erect any extensive fortifications there.

The Russians are hastily repairing the small damage done to the fortresses against a possible attempt of the Turks to retake them.

No news has been received of the fate of Ekved Pevzi Pasha, commander of the Ninth corps, who was in charge of the defense of Erzerum.

Reinforcements Fail to Arrive.

It is reported that reinforcements from Thrace were on the way to Erzerum but that they were still five or six days distant when the city was surrounded. Artillery had been shipped by sea to Trebizond.

A telegram from Sebastopol reports the bombardment of Vitezou, on the Black sea, 15 miles east of Trebizond. The Turks are evacuating.

The reference in the foregoing to Ekved Pevzi Pasha as the commander in charge of Erzerum before its surrender apparently disposes of unofficial reports of several weeks ago that the Turkish army there was in charge of the German field marshal, Von Der Goltz, or his compatriot, Field Marshal Liman von Sanders.

Davenport Officer Resigns.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 19.—Adjutant General Guy E. Logan announced today that he had received the resignation of Albert M. Parker, senior second lieutenant of Battery B at Davenport.

BRITISH REMOVE  
TEUTONS ABOARD  
STEAMER CHINA

Shanghai, China, Feb. 19.—The American steamship China, which left Shanghai yesterday morning for San Francisco was held up on the high seas by a British auxiliary cruiser and 38 Germans were taken off.

The China which is owned by the China Mail Steamship company, is the only trans-Pacific line flying the American flag. It is thought she may have been held up by the Lauretic, which recently stopped the Tenyo Maru and removed nine Indians.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Similar information regarding the removal of Germans from the American liner China has been received by the state department from its representatives in China. No action has yet been taken by the United States, but it is probable a protest will be made to Great Britain.

American vessels in the Pacific have been held up previously during the war by British warships. In August of 1914, the China, then owned by the Pacific Mail Steamship company and the Manchuria of the same company were halted by British warships off Hong Kong and forced to surrender 40 German reservists. Officers of the China said Great Britain in their opinion had acted within her rights. The Manchuria was boarded within the three-mile limit.

A similar situation arose last December when a French cruiser held up four American steamships on their way from Porto Rico to New York and removed Germans and Austrians. The United States protested and the French government released the men.

Insurance Society Formed by Farmers

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 19.—Farmers of Scott county (Davenport), today obtained incorporation papers from the secretary of state for a mutual insurance society. The name of the society is the Scott County Farmers' Mutual Insurance association.

Chosen Head of Insular Bank.

Manila, Feb. 19.—The Philippine commission has named H. P. Willis as president of the new insular bank, the founding of which, with a capital of \$10,000,000, was authorized by the last legislature. The salary fixed for the position is \$12,000.

THE WAR TODAY

The recent comparative quiet on the Franco-Belgian front has not been seriously disturbed so far as current statements reveal. The only infantry movement reported in today's French war office bulletin is what is characterized as an unimportant attack by the Germans north of Blangy in the Artois. This is said to have been easily repulsed.

Russians are active along the Black sea coast to the north, a Sebastopol dispatch reporting the bombardment of Vitezou, 15 miles east of Trebizond. A Russian advance landward in the direction of Trebizond on the coast northwest of Erzerum already has been unofficially reported.

There appears to be somewhat greater military activity in Galicia than for some days. Petrograd reports an Austrian offensive on the Dniester near Usciecko, an attack being launched after extensive artillery preparation. The assault was repulsed, it is declared.

Indications that some important military movement by the Germans may be in preparation on the western front are furnished by advices from the Belgian frontier received in Amsterdam. Heavy troop movements have been in progress in south and central Belgium, say the dispatches.

The capture of Erzerum by the Russians continues to hold chief interest in the war. Most of the Turkish garrison escaped, but, according to reports from Petrograd, the amount of booty, including provisions and ammunition captured, is enormous. The number of guns which fell into the hands of the Russians is fully one thousand. Russian newspapers point out that the fall of Erzerum may bring about the collapse of the proposed German campaign against the Suez canal and Egypt.

In the vicinity of Ypres there has been some severe fighting in which the Germans claim to have repulsed the British, inflicting heavy casualties. South of the Somme, fighting between the French and Germans has consisted of a few artillery duels.

In Albania, the Austro-Hungarians have practically surrounded Durrazzo.

No heavy fighting is in progress on the Austro-Italian front.

SENATE ASKS  
FOR BOOKS IN  
SISAL PROBE

Agricultural Committee Call for Records of the Harvester Company.

## BANK HEAD REFUSES

Demand of Body Rejected by Executive of Chicago Institution.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The senate agricultural committee today decided to call on the Continental and Commercial National bank of Chicago to submit a statement showing the deposits of the International Harvester company for the last three years in order to determine the truth of charges that the Harvester company had disciplined the Chicago bank for extending financial aid to the sisal growers of Yucatan.

Request Is Refused.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—Arthur Reynolds, president of the Continental and Commercial National bank, when informed of the decision of the senate committee to ask for a statement from the bank showing the International Harvester company's deposits, said today that the request would be refused.

"We question the authority and jurisdiction of the senate committee and we will refuse to open our books to the committee until so directed by a competent court," said Mr. Reynolds.

Investigate Alleged Combine.

The committee is investigating charges that the Harvester company and the Plymouth Cordage company combined to monopolize the sisal output and prevent independent twine dealers from obtaining raw material, and counter charges that the Pan-American commission corporation, of which Sol Wexler, a New York banker, was the head, financed a sisal monopoly with the idea of putting up the price to American merchants.

The committee has been told that the Pan-American corporation was not formed until the planters had been unable to make loans from independent bankers who refused because of alleged threats from the Harvester and Plymouth company.

A telegram was read into the records from the Continental and Commercial bank denying that the Harvester company had withdrawn its account. Levy Mayer of Chicago, counsel for the Pan-American corporation who made the original charges that the Harvester company had attempted to influence the banks, read the message, and similar denials were made in a message from the Harvester company, read by its counsel, Walter L. Fisher.

SECOND OF ASSAULT  
VICTIMS SUCCUMB

Freeport, Ill., Feb. 19.—Mrs. Albert Hinze, who was shot Thursday by her brother-in-law, Zeres Sandmeyer, died today, the second victim of the shooting. Sandmeyer, who turned the gun on himself, died of his wounds. One other victim of Sandmeyer's acts still is in a critical condition.

Sandmeyer shot his wife, her sister and a neighbor, enraged, it was believed because his wife sought a divorce.

INQUEST IS HELD  
OVER GIRL'S BODY

Cyanide of Potassium Is Poison That Brought Death to Miss Marian Lambert.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—Cyanide of potassium was the poison which killed Marian Frances Lambert, Lake Forest high school girl, according to a report made to the coroner today by Dr. Ralph C. Webster of the Chicago laboratories.

"The digestive organs, particularly the stomach of the girl, show traces of potassium cyanide," said Dr. Webster. "There is no trace of any other poison and I am positive there was no mixture of chemicals in the digestive organs. The white crystals found, I am told, under the fingernails of the girl, were originally cyanide of potassium."

Dr. Webster is making an analysis of crystals of cyanide and other poison found in an ash pile of the greenhouse at the home of Will H. Orpet, who is in custody charged with the murder of Miss Lambert, his former sweetheart.